GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DISINVESTMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3991
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
CLOSURE OF BALCO
C. SREENIVAASAN;SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sterlite management recently shut down Bharat Aluminium Company Limited including the sensitive Smelter Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a)& (b) No, Sir. The workers of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO)`s plant at Korba had resorted to strike from first shift of 3rd March, 2001. Many appeals were made by the BALCO management to the workers to resume their duties to avoid any loss/damage to the Plant. But the strike continues till date due to which the pot lines of the smelter plant were switched off and irretrievable damage has been caused to the plant. The molten metal has begun solidifying.

(c) Government has been in touch with the State administration for maintenance of law and order and normalcy in the plant. Secretary (Disinvestment) has written to the Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh Government who has intimated that the State Government is very keen to see that the BALCO plant resumes normal production and that it will do its utmost to ensure production in the factory. Minister of State for Disinvestment has also written a letter to the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh explaining the Government stand. The Home Ministry has drawn the attention of the Chhhatisgarh Government to the directions given by theSupreme Court and requested it to keep the Government of India apprised of the steps being taken to implement the directions.